

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: BRENNFLECK, Matthias Michael

SERIAL NO.:

FILED: Herewith

TITLE: CONNECTION ELEMENT

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In conjunction with the filing of the present application, and prior to an initial Official Action on this matter, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Preliminary Amendment: SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

In Paragraphs [0017] to [0034], please amend the paragraphs as follows:

[0017] Additional characteristics of the invention result from the description of embodiment examples using the drawings and from the drawings themselves. ~~Shown are:~~

[0018] Figure 1: ~~A is a~~ is a perspective view of the elements according to the invention for the connection of plates running towards each other in a cross-shape;

[0019] Figure 2: ~~A is a~~ is a top plan view of a cross-shaped connection element without plates;

[0020] Figure 3: ~~A is a~~ is a top plan view of a cross-shaped connection element with two plates and next to it, the corresponding spacers;

[0021] Figure 4: ~~A is a~~ is a bottom view from below onto a cross-shaped connection element;

[0022] Figure 5: ~~A is a~~ is a side elevation view of a cross-shaped connection element;

[0023] Figure 6: ~~A is a~~ is a horizontal sectional view through the connection element along the B-B axis from Figure 5;

[0024] Figure 7: ~~A is a~~ is a horizontal sectional view through the connection element along the C-C axis from Figure 5;

[0025] Figure 8: ~~A is a~~ is a vertical sectional view through the connection element along the A-A axis from Figure 2;

[0026] Figure 9: ~~A diagram shows a side elevation and two top plan views of the eccentric in active connection with the lateral legs.~~

[0027] Figure 10: ~~A diagram shows an exploded perspective view and sectional view of the lateral leg from different perspectives and partially as a section.~~

[0028] Figure 11: ~~A is a side elevation view of the housing of the connection element.~~

[0029] Figure 12: ~~A is a sectional view through the housing along the D-D axis from Figure 11.~~

[0030] Figure 13: ~~A is a sectional view through the housing along the A-A axis from Figure 12.~~

[0031] Figure 14: ~~A is another sectional view through the housing along the B-B axis from Figure 12.~~

[0032] Figure 15: ~~A is another sectional view through the housing along the C-C axis from Figure 12.~~

[0033] Figure 16: ~~A is a top plan view of a T-shaped connection element.~~

[0034] Figure 17: ~~An is a top plan view of an L-shaped connection element.~~

### Preliminary Amendment: ABSTRACT AMENDMENTS

On page 16, please amend the Abstract as follows:

~~This purpose is achieved according to the invention in that the A connection element of the present invention~~ has several jaw sidewalls that are oriented in different directions, whereby ~~2~~ two jaw sidewalls at a time can be braced against each other to receive a component part, ~~in that at~~. At least one jaw sidewall can be set so that it is adjustable on the connection element and this jaw sidewall projects by a lateral leg into the inside of the connection element ~~and there~~. There is in active connection with an adjustment element that is to be activated from the outside in a direction to brace or detach the jaw sidewall. With the connection element according to the invention, it is possible to connect the plates of a shelf construction system together without nails, screws and the like.